

Minutes of the Fairhope Recreation Board

The Fairhope Recreation Board met on Wednesday, May 19, 2021 at 5:15 p.m. in the Rec Center at 803 North Greeno Road.

Present: Pat White, Charlie Langham, Derek Thomas, Charlie Williamson, Corey Martin (arrived at 5:20 p.m.), Cathy Hudson and Bob Keyser. Absent: Michelle Smith, Vann Saltz, Jack Burrell. Gayle Fogarty took minutes.

The meeting was called to order by Bob Keyser at 5:15 p.m. The minutes of the March 17, 2021 and April 21, 2021 meeting were considered and approved on a motion by Charlie Langham, seconded by Charlie Williamson, none opposed.

Recreation Update:

Pat White informed the board that site work for the ADA project in the stadium is set to begin on Monday and materials will be bid out. The City is hosting sports clinics ran by school coaches this summer rather than offering a full day camp, Rotary Youth Club kids will swim in the pool on Wednesday and Friday during the summer from 12:30 to 3 p.m. Fairhope High School graduation was held last night, over 380 students graduated.

Pat provided an update on the Volanta project: Engineers are working on a final plan, cost expected to be \$540,000 for LED lighting for the fields and will be in the 2021-2022 budget, this project will be completed by City staff. Funding for parking improvements is expected to be \$390,000 and is in this year's budget. The New Scoreboard-Video Message Board for the stadium is out for bid and is 12 x 30 in size. Pat added that funding for the Rotary Youth Club playground has been sent to the City Council for final approval and will be on an upcoming Council meeting agenda. Also, a grant to fund a new garden at the Rotary Club has been submitted.

New Business: Pat shared that the City has an opportunity to apply for a Recreation Park Land Grant allowing for improvements to the 40-acre Colony property. Pat suggested to the board to install a few lakes, pavilion, bathrooms, bike/jogging/walking trails, disc golf course to allow for fishing and kayaking.

Charlie Langham made a motion to recommend to the city council approval in submitting a grant application for improvements to the 40-Acre Colony Property, and if the grant is received install a lake, pavilion, bathrooms, bike/jogging/walking trails and a disc golf course on the property, seconded by Charlie Williamson, none opposed.

Pat added that he and Corey Martin spoke with a coach of the girls softball league, and she asked if the Recreation Board should be involved in vetting the leadership of the Fairhope Recreation League program. Pat informed the coach that he would share this question with the Rec Board. There was general discussion among the board members and general agreement among the members was that they would not be involved in the vetting of the leadership of sports leagues.

There was general discussion among the members regarding removal of trees needed for the installation of the New Scoreboard-Video Message Board, parking project and new baseball fields. Pat added that there will be 50 plus trees removed to complete these projects.

Derek Thomas made a motion to recommend to the City Council approval to remove the necessary pine trees from Volanta Park for the renovation project and the New Scoreboard-Video Message Board at no cost to the City, as Asphalt Services will remove the pine trees and receive timber as compensation for the tree removal, seconded by Charlie Williamson, none opposed.

Board Updates:

Cathy Hudson inquired about the swim program with Coach Rich. There was general discussion among the board members. F.A.S.T started Monday with around 260 kids signed up.

Bob Keyser stated that the board needs to continue to look for solutions to move recreation forward in Fairhope.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.